



**STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT
P.O. Box 94245
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**Louisiana Investment in Infrastructure
for Economic Prosperity Commission
(LIIEP Commission)**

December 10, 2002

**Meeting @ State Capitol Building
House Committee Room No. 1**

Dr. Kam Movassaghi, Secretary of La DOTD, called the meeting to order promptly at 1:30 p.m.

Role was called, the following members were present:

Dr. Kam Movassaghi
Mr. Thomas Clark
Mr. David Kane (representing Secretary Don Hutchinson)
Mr. Derrell Cohoon
Rep. Gillis Pinac
Rep. Roy Hopkins
Rep. Loulan Pitre, Jr.
Senator Joel Chaisson

Secretary Movassaghi stated that the draft Statewide Transportation Plan is the result of many hours of analysis, simulations, and meetings with Advisory Councils which have had input and guidance in its development. Today's meeting is primarily to review the draft Plan recommendations, to outline how the plan was developed, and provide an opportunity for discussion. Eventually this plan will be the final, long-range transportation plan for the State of Louisiana. The LIIEP Commission will vote on adopting this plan after the conference in January where it will be unveiled publicly. The draft Plan is a comprehensive plan--it deals with road, rail, water, and air transportation. It is a long-range plan that addresses major infrastructure and corridor development.

A motion to accept the minutes from the March 4, 2002 meeting of the Commission was made by Representative Loulan Pitre. Mr. Thomas Clark seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted with no objection.

Dr. Eric Kalivoda, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Planning and Programming, La DOTD presented the draft Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan.

Upon completion of the presentation, Secretary Movassaghi asked for questions or comments.

Mr. Derrell Cohoon complemented the DOTD on an impressive study and interesting presentation. He observed that the overlay of maps of highway, rail, air, etc. in the current year, as opposed to 2030, indicates that Louisiana is a transportation hub today.

Representative Roy Hopkins also offered his congratulations, and after looking at highway Priority A and B lists, asked what the plans are for the non-funded highway Priority C list.

Dr. Kalivoda responded that it depends on obtaining even greater federal funding. Those projects did not rise to a level high enough to be designated specifically in the proposed plan for which we requesting funding.

Representative Hopkins stated that last year after 9/11, quite a bit of federal money was cut out and asked where do we stand?

Secretary Movassaghi replied that the President's budget cut transportation funding and the effect on Louisiana was about 100 million dollars. The Senate restored the funding. The House was moving towards restoring half. Now with the new Congress, it is his understanding that there will be new appropriations and we will start over again. As of this moment, we are on a continuing resolution, and that means we go from month to month based on last year's appropriation. Once the new Congress meets, we will see what the new appropriations will be and whether or not we will have to face cuts.

Representative Hopkins asked about the federal funding time frame. Secretary Movassaghi stated that after January 2003, the new Congress meets and he assumes that at that time, there will be a new appropriations bill.

The question was asked - Who was involved with the development of the plan, and who was making decisions? Dr. Kalivoda stated that the primary mechanism was the advisory councils and the technical analysis. In the case of highway projects, the Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council was the primary source of input. This council is made up of each of the nine DOTD District Administrators, one representative from each Metropolitan Planning Organization, one representative from each Planning and Development District around the state, the LA Department of Economic Development, and the World Trade Center in New Orleans. The LA DOTD Assistant Secretary, Office of Planning and Programming acts as the Chairman of the Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council. In addition to the technical analysis, people who have been promoting large scale projects were invited to come and make presentations about why they think their project should be a priority for the State of Louisiana. There were a number of presentations made to the Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council, with good attendance. People had an opportunity to provide all the facts and pertinent information.

Representative Hopkins stated that some highway projects have waited years and years to be funded. Some projects were committed to that were not necessarily TIMED Program projects to encourage people to support the taxes that were passed. He encouraged DOTD to consider these types of projects, and taxpayer reaction.

Dr. Kalivoda stated that DOTD would initiate a public review and comment process and see what people around the state have to say.

Secretary Movassaghi stated that DOTD will go through the public review process, and requested that the LIIEP Commission members review the plan and see if there is anything that has been have left out.

Representative Pinac commented that it was a very good presentation and an excellent job of working within realistic parameters. His questions were: "What do we do to get the general public behind this plan? How do we do it? As we all know, it will not be free." He approved of the idea of all of the various Louisiana state departments working together.

Senator Reggie Dupre, Senator Hainkel's designee stated that he is happy to see in the highway Priority A list, the North – South Hurricane Evacuation Route. A map of Hurricane Lili's predicted path was shown to the group. If Lili had remained a category 4 hurricane, most of Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes would have been under water. Highway improvements will save lives.

With no other comments Secretary Movassaghi stated that DOTD would proceed with the public review and comment process for the Plan, and have the conference in January 2003. Secretary Movassaghi requested the LIIEP Commission member's participation in the conference.

Dr. Kalivoda asked that everyone attend the 1 ½ day conference next month. It will be a good opportunity for people to speak up about what they think of the Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.